

Park History

Eagle Beach State Recreation Area surrounds the Methodist Camp. In the early 1950s, a small committee from Juneau-area Methodist churches received a permit to build a camp. Students from across the lower 48 states and local volunteers constructed a small building, tent frames, trails, and bridges and the camp opened in 1955. The camp was established to provide a facility for residents and visitors who want to enjoy the natural environment of southeast Alaska.

In 1996, Governor Tony Knowles signed an executive order establishing the 570-acre Eagle Beach State Recreation Area. The Eagle Beach Picnic Area, formerly managed by the U.S. Forest Service, was added to the state recreation area in 2007.



Background photo of Dunlin and Western Sandpiper
Courtesy of Chuck Young, USF&WS

For More Information

Park Address:
Mile 29, Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK

Southeast Area Park Headquarters:
400 Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, AK 99811-1071
(907) 465-4563

Welcome to Eagle Beach State Recreation Area



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For additional information visit
www.alaskastateparks.org



Alaska State Parks

Welcome

Eagle Beach State Recreation Area, located at the saltwater confluence of the Eagle and Herbert rivers, encompasses approximately 600 acres and includes a campground, two day-use areas, and an extensive trail system. Hiking, skiing, biking, wildlife viewing, camping, and picnicking are a few of the activities you can enjoy. The main day-use area is fully accessible with a quarter-mile paved trail and viewing scopes. Several trails and a white sand beach with an expansive intertidal area make for great beach combing and bird and sea life watching.



Area Highlights

Day-Use Areas

Eagle Beach Picnic Area

The Eagle Beach Picnic Area can be accessed from mile 28.8 of the Glacier Highway. Tables, fire rings, and a covered shelter are available for picnicking near the Eagle River tidal flats. Eagles, gulls, ducks, and many other migratory birds can be seen on the flats.

Outer Beach Area

This is a great place for lunch on the beach where you can use the picnic shelter or one of the picnic tables. Enjoy spectacular views of the Chilkat Mountains during lunch and comb the sandy beach for seashells, colorful sea glass, and drift wood afterwards. Watch migratory birds resting and feeding on the tidal flats in spring and fall as they journey north to breeding grounds or south to wintering grounds.

Dog owners should be careful not to allow their dogs to harrass the birds.



Camping

The Eagle Beach Campground has 26 campsites, including three walk-in sites. Potable water can be obtained from the campground host site and restroom facilities are available nearby.



Trails

Eagle Beach State Recreation Area has numerous trails for people of all abilities. Take a leisurely stroll along the Loop Trail or spend a day exploring the Amalga Trail that leads to a cabin in the Eagle River Valley. Explore the centerfold map for detailed information about the area's trails.





Trail Descriptions

Loop Trail 1

Access: Main entrance parking area
Travel Means: Foot, wheelchair
Distance: 1.8-mile loop

Cross the Saturday Creek walking bridge and follow the trail that leads to the campground. Numerous ecosystems occur along this short, accessible trail including open meadow, old-growth forest, wetland, and rainforest muskeg. Enjoy wildflowers in spring and early summer and the brightly colored berries that follow. Look for porcupines, squirrels, and other signs of wildlife, but please be bear aware since bears frequent this area.



Chocolate Lily
Photo courtesy of Kerry Howard

Amalga Trail 2

Access: Mile 28.1 of the Glacier Highway or via the Loop Trail
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 11.2 miles

This trail is for more adventurous hikers. The first 7.5 miles leading to the U.S. Forest Service Eagle Glacier cabin are well maintained.



Salmonberries

Photos not credited are courtesy of Alaska State Parks employees



Outer Eagle Beach

Yankee Basin Trail 3

Access: Via the Loop or Amalga trailheads
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 6 miles

This trail is the old tram route and is not maintained. Hikers can follow the Yankee Basin Trail for about four miles to the pass, but beyond this, the route is difficult and hard to follow.

Cross-Country Ski Trail 4

Access: Main entrance parking area
Travel Means: Foot, ski
Distance: 1.3 miles

This trail is maintained for skiing when there is sufficient snow, but is available for hiking year round. The trail winds through old-growth forest and offers occasional views of Eagle River.

Beach Access Trail 5

Access: Main entrance parking area
Travel Means: Foot
Distance: 0.7 mile

This trail parallels the Glacier Highway for half of its length. Views of the Eagle River and a salt marsh estuary, at the mouth of the river, reward visitors walking this trail. Waterfowl are plentiful, and in late summer you may spot an occasional bear fishing for chum salmon. Be bear aware!



Harbor Seal Pup
Photo courtesy of Kerry Howard



Shooting Star
Photo courtesy of Kerry Howard



Lesser Yellowlegs

Park Fees

One-day Parking: NO FEE
Overnight Camping: \$10/day. There is a seven-day camping limit.
Shelters: \$25/day to reserve. Picnic area and shelters are closed daily from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Park Rules

- Motorized vehicles are prohibited on trails
- Fireworks are prohibited
- Fires are allowed in authorized structures only
- Disturbing or damaging natural objects is prohibited
- Permits are required for groups of more than 20 persons

Park Tips

- Be prepared for rain and soft, wet ground
- Boil or treat water before drinking, or bring your own drinking water
- Bear encounters are common, make noise and give them space
- Pack out your trash
- Please help protect shorebirds by keeping dogs under control at all times; do not allow dogs to disturb or chase birds or other wildlife